

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

APR 13 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

THE SECRETARY - ROOM 222

26 MAR 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

Honorable John H. Chafee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Chafee:

This is in reply to your letter of February 19, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take your constituents' concerns into account when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the

Congressional

DATE 8-3-19-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM

03/11/93

LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9301167	03/11/93	02/19/93	03/31/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Senator	John Chafee	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
several	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/lor			

3/12

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
03/11/93			

REMARKS: If respond directly to constituents, furnish
office with copy of response.

JOHN H. CHAFEE
RHODE ISLAND

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

THE SENATE ARMS CONTROL
OBSERVER GROUP

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

February 19, 1993

PRB

92-235

1167

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

(202) 224-2921

TDD: (202) 224-7617

PROVIDENCE OFFICE:

301 PASTORE FEDERAL BUILDING

TWO EXCHANGE TERRACE

PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

(401) 528-5294

TDD: (401) 751-1130

TOLL FREE NUMBER

IN RHODE ISLAND

1-800-662-5188

Ms. Linda Townsend Solheim
Director, Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 808
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Solheim:

I am writing to call to your attention comments by Rhode Island residents regarding a proposed new Federal Communications Commission rule, PR Docket 92-235. Enclosed are two letters I received from constituents on this issue.

Please include these comments in your consideration of the proposed rule. If you respond to these individuals directly, I would appreciate a copy of your correspondence, to complete my records.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


John H. Chafee

Enclosure

FCC 86/ FEB 3 1993

Michael Ellery
175 East Greenwich Ave
West Warwick RI

02893

February 1, 1993

Senator John Chafee
301 Pastori Federal Building
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Senator Chafee:

I am a businessman in the town of West Warwick, Rhode Island and I am very active in a local club whose members enjoy constructing and operating radio controlled model airplanes.

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wingspans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they

1047 DEC 1993

The Honorable John H. Chafee
301. Pastore Federal Building
Providence, Rhode Island

4 February 1993

1993

Dear Senator Chafee:

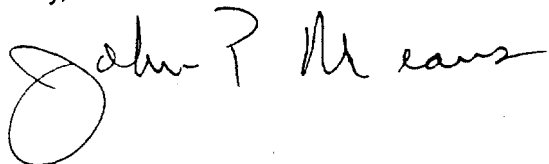
I am one of a group of 50 men who are members of the Aquidneck Radio Control Club, Inc., Middletown, Rhode Island. We build and fly serious radio controlled airplanes. Our club is sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. (AMA) which in turn is an associate member of the National Aeronautics (NAA). NAA is the official U.S. representative of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), the world governing body for sport aviation.

I am extremely concerned and vexed by the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235.

Adoption of the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes. Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. The current narrow band frequencies were assigned about two years ago and required the hundreds of thousands of radio control flyers, including myself to purchase new and expensive transmitters and receivers.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operations. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. When we fly our airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly decreased. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our models at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of our full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment. I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control flyers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our radio equipment. The activity provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry. Please help me continue the safe enjoyment of this intensely interesting and valuable activity by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. It is my opinion, and that of my peer group, that such action would deal a crippling blow, perhaps the death knell to this fascinating avocation that has been part of the American scene for more than seventy years.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. John P. Meeks
19 Concord Drive
Middletown, R.I. 02840